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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God, we thank You for the gift of this new day. Bind the hearts of our lawmakers in the tender ties of respect and esteem. May no passing irritation rob them of the joys of friendship and fraternity. Lord, forgive them if they have been keen to see human failings and slow to appreciate the preciousness of the relationships they have forged in this legislative body. Today, empower them to show forth Your praises, not only with their lips but in their lives.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

PASSING OF DOROTHY HEIGHT

Mr. REID. Madam President, America today lost a civil rights icon. Dorothy Height died early this morning. She helped transform our country as considerably and as courageously as anyone who dedicated his or her life to ensure our Nation fulfills its promise of equality.

For decades, Mrs. Height fought tirelessly for the rights of women and African Americans and helped lead a national dialog about gender and racial equality. She was a trusted counsel of every White House since Franklin Roosevelt's administration. Generation after generation relied on her vision and tenacity and our country is better because so many sought her help.

Mrs. Height's legacy is in the fairer, more equal America in which she died and we live today. She knew her work was not done and she never stopped pushing her country forward. Until the last days of her 98 years, Dorothy Height was still fighting for equality and opportunity.

The thoughts of the entire Senate today are with Dorothy Height's friends, who are too numerous to mention, and her loved ones—and her loved ones are more than just her family.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, today, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business for about an hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes

each. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the final 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will turn to executive session to debate the nomination of Lael Brainard to be Under Secretary of the Treasury, postcloture.

At 12 noon, the Senate will vote on that nomination. Following the vote, the Senate will recess until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus luncheons.

Following the recess, the Senate will debate the nomination of Marisa Demeo to be an associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. There will be up to 6 hours for debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on confirmation of that nomination. Upon disposition of the Demeo nomination, the Senate will immediately proceed to vote on the confirmation of Stuart Gordon Nash to be an associate justice of the same court, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Cloture motions have been filed on the nominations of Christopher Schroeder, Thomas Vanaskie, and Denny Chin. Today we will consider a way to move forward on those nominations.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FINANCIAL REGULATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, with regard to financial regulation, from the beginning of this debate, I have called for a bipartisan approach. And for several months, I was encouraged to see bipartisan talks approaching agreement on a bipartisan bill.

Somewhere along the line, those talks got off course, leading to Democrats pulling away from bipartisan efforts, a party-line vote in committee and the Democrat leadership's stated

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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